

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Kruer for the helpful telephone discussions with Applicants' representative concerning the Examiner's comments in the Advisory Action dated January 23, 2006. Applicants also thank the Examiner for indicating that the pending rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 will be withdrawn, and that prosecution will be reopened in view of Applicants perfecting priority in the present application. Accordingly, consistent with the discussions with the Examiner, Applicants submit the following for reconsideration of the application.

The Examiner has maintained the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claims 1-6 and 9 as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,040,054 to Odashima et al. in view of Applicant's admissions and JP 2003073856 to Morishita et al.; claim 7 as obvious further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,950,468 to Shimizu et al., and claim 10 as obvious further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,015,855 to Dalton, which are traversed.

Applicants submit herewith a copy of an English translation of the priority application of the present application, i.e., JP 2002-341416, filed **November 25, 2002**. The English translation includes a statement that the translation is a true and correct translation of the original Japanese text. As such, Applicants have effectively perfected the priority of the present application. Further, Applicants submit that the presently claimed subject matter is supported by the disclosure of the priority application, e.g., as shown on pages 1-38 of the English translation.

Accordingly, the Morishita et al reference, which was published on **March 12, 2003**, is no longer available as prior art.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance and early notification of such is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/698,519

Reply to Advisory Action of January 23, 2006

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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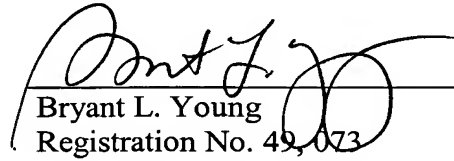
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